

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
18 December 2003 (18.12.2003)

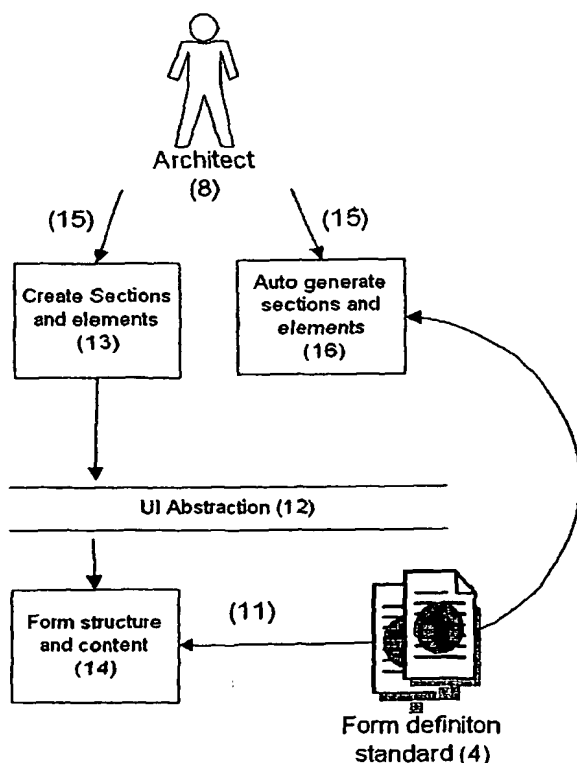
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2003/105022 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 17/24**
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2003/002180
- (22) International Filing Date: 20 May 2003 (20.05.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
0212934.4 6 June 2002 (06.06.2002) GB
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ELECTRONIC DATA CAPTURE AND VERIFICATION



(57) Abstract: Apparatus for automatically building an electronic form for presentation to a user during a data capture process segregates the data capture intent behind the form from the presentation and execution of the form to a data capture user. In this way, the data capture process, including generation of the form and display of user input prompts, can be carried out on any computing platform independent of the system used to generate a data capture definition file that specifies the intent of the data capture requirements. The specification of data elements required during data capture, each having a type specification and a logical relationship relative to other data elements in a hierarchical structure are defined in a data capture definition file in a predetermined format. A data capture process executes the data capture definition file and automatically generates a plurality of visual displays for presentation to a user, each input screen comprising a plurality of user input areas corresponding to the data elements and physically positioned on the screen in a manner corresponding to the defined logical hierarchical structure.



(84) **Designated States (regional):** ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) **Date of publication of the international search report:**
4 March 2004

Published:

— *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 03/02180

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F17/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>CARLSON C R ET AL: "Forms interfaces and their view supportability properties" COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND APPLICATIONS CONFERENCE, 1990. COMPSAC 90. PROCEEDINGS., FOURTEENTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CHICAGO, IL, USA 31 OCT.-2 NOV. 1990, LOS ALAMITOS, CA, USA, IEEE COMPUT. SOC, US, 31 October 1990 (1990-10-31), pages 448-452, XP010019753 ISBN: 0-8186-2054-4 abstract page 448, left-hand column, paragraph 1; figure 1 page 449, left-hand column, paragraphs 1-3 page 450, left-hand column, paragraph 2 -page 451, right-hand column, paragraph 1 page 451, right-hand column, last paragraph</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/-</p>	<p>1-4, 6-23,25, 27-34</p>

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *Z* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

5 December 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

05/01/2004

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	----	24
X	<p>US 5 774 887 A (BRUNNER HANS ET AL) 30 June 1998 (1998-06-30)</p> <p>column 2, line 36-53 column 3, line 65 -column 5, line 8 column 5, line 59 -column 6, line 45 column 7, line 53 -column 8, line 12; figures 1-3 column 10, line 58 -column 11, line 18; figure 6</p>	1-4, 6-23, 25-34
Y	----	24
Y	<p>"Getting Started with Oracle Change Management Pack" ORACLE, 'Online! June 2001 (2001-06), pages 1.22-1.23, XP002264044 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://download-uk.oracle.com/docs/pdf/A88717_01.pdf> 'retrieved on 2003-12-05! the whole document</p>	24
A	<p>EP 0 678 817 A (BRITISH TELECOMM) 25 October 1995 (1995-10-25) column 1, line 35-53</p>	4,8
A	<p>MIKE HANSON: "Saving Time with Global Templates" CLARION MAGAZINE, 'Online! 1 October 1998 (1998-10-01), XP002264045 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://tinyurl.com/xq0a> 'retrieved on 2003-12-05! the whole document</p>	23

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int... al application No.
PCT/GB 03/02180

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 5, 35
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 5, 35

Claim 5 is not clear because even in the light of the description the expression "output message format" does not make any sense to a person skilled in the art of electronic form building.

The description must disclose the invention in a manner sufficiently clear and complete for the invention to be carried out by a person skilled in the art (Article 5, PCT). Nowhere in the description is there an explanation of the term which would enable a skilled person to interpret it. Consequently, the description does not provide full support for claim 5 either (Article 6, PCT).

The lack of clarity was such that no meaningful search was possible.

Claim 35 refers to other parts of the application (Rule 6.2a PCT).

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Intern Application No

PCT/GB 03/02180

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5774887	A	30-06-1998	NONE	
EP 0678817	A	25-10-1995	EP 0678817 A1	25-10-1995



Published:

— without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.